

ROBUSTNESS IN STREET ARCHITECTURE ;
A STUDY OF SOME SELECTED
STREETS IN COLOMBO AND KANDY.

A Dissertation Submitted
for the Degree of Master of Science (Architecture)
at the University of Moratuwa



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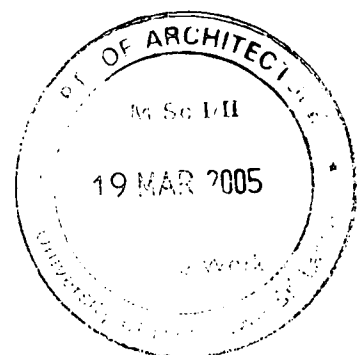
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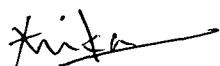
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DECLARATION

I Declare that this dissertation represents my own work, except where due acknowledgement is made, and that it has not been previously included in thesis, dissertation or report submitted to this university or to any other institution for a degree, diploma or other qualification.

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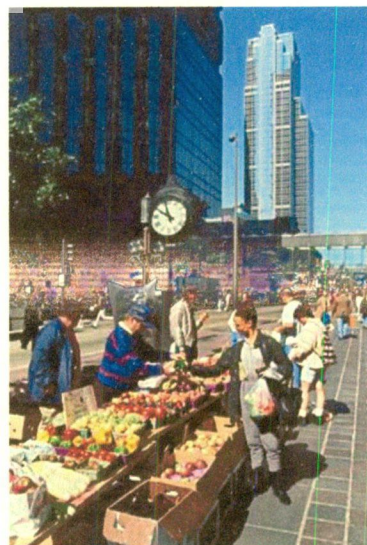
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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

0.1 The Study

Man's interest in space has existential roots. It seems from a need to grasp vital relationships in his environment to bring meaning and order in to a world of events and actions. | ?

People use spaces for different activities with their motivations in the light of their perception. His behavior within a space is directed by the orientation, which is expressed by organization of a chain of spaces. | ?

The function of a street as a link given rise to the movement of the people, connecting together the individual spaces for a town creating a sense of urban street. Liveliness of place which offer the components of psycho-sociological needs of the user both in private as well as in public realm. It is much more demanding the street as a public space, which must be able to personalize by each one in that group. | ?

That the urban street should provide its user a psychologically comfortable atmosphere, which makes him be on the Street, which we call "responsiveness". There are some essential attributes through which the degree of responsiveness is affected such as permeability, variety, legibility, robustness, visual appropriateness, personalization and richness. Out of these qualitative attributes, the Robustness will be considered as the area around which the study is being carried out.

"Places which can be used for many different purposes offer it's user more choice than places whose design limits them to a single fixed use Environments which offer this choice have a quality we call Robustness"

Ian Bently, Alan Alock, Paul Murrain, Sue Mc Glynn and Graham smith (1985 : 56)

In accordance with the above description, robustness will create the flexibility of the space, the degree to which the people can use a given place for different functions.

Therefore the study will be focused on robustness, its characteristics, determinant factors and modifying factors through different situations of selected Sri Lankan streets.

Also it is to be discussed the degree to which robustness would be appropriate within different contexts. Ultimately it is realized that robustness will be an important key quality. That creates adaptability of the street, which paves the way to enhance its liveliness.

0.2 Need Of The Study

It has been observed that there is a noticeable failure in the evolution of urban streets. Streets devoted to the automobiles have stolen much of the humanized activities in cities. Not only that but, most of the buildings along the street are restricted to a single fixed use within rigid design limits, and seem to be lacking their adaptability to different functions.

This has created a vacuum between the relationship of man and his environment. Street activities have been swept away and established new inflexible individualized social entities which lacks the "Robustness" and urban street has been acquired by new values of mass transportation systems and mobility.

As discussing about this lack of robustness, several reasons of it could be identified. Trends of new development creates street facades with introverted, massive and rigid edged buildings. The result seems to be the loss of public realm of the urban street. Ultimately the street had been neglected as a place for people and means of expression of community.

The need is to fill this huge gap in rectifying this issue of loosing the "liveliness" of urban streetscape. Therefore it is the duty of the architects to realize the vitality of existence of Robustness in the street facades through which the livability of street will be evoked and enhanced. Also to create more urban public spaces along streets, that has multiple uses as the time changes.

This particular study will provide the practitioner with a valuable source of basic information in achieving the above objectives.

0.3 Intention of the study

The intention of the study is to demonstrate the way robustness contributes to create liveliness in urban street, and the impact of it on the urban public life. In this response the attempt is to identify the qualitative attributes of the responsive urban street. Then it is to be considered the determinant factors of robustness as a key ingredient of responsive Urban Street.

(Therefore the study is towards a framework for a robust urban street.) Through the selected examples, it intends to realize the importance of existence of robust spaces along the street and then to seek the way to create live urban streets.

0.3 Scope and Limitation

Liveliness is an essential quality that sustain an architectural entity. As there are various qualitative attributes that create the responsiveness in an urban street as a public space, such as permeability, legibility, variety, visual appropriateness, Robustness, personalization and richness. But all these aspects are not being discussed in detail. The study is to be focused on to the robustness in urban street architecture.

Robustness will play a major role in creating the liveliness in the street in different ways. Therefore the study stressed on the various categories of contributory factors of robustness in making the street a better place and the way it affects on the urban street life.

The study will not pass judgments on making the street a better place. Nor will it set guide lines to the design of a street it will however give an insight to the street as an interpretation of robustness in sustaining it's sensitivity.

Furthermore the study will be limited to some of the selected streets performing different categories of activities.

0.5 Method Of Work

The contribution of robustness in street architecture is analyzed and Identified through a theoretical approach.

First, The attributes of responsiveness and “what robustness is” ,

Then, The Characteristics, determinant and the modifying factors of Robustness ,

Finally the impact of these identified factors on urban public life is studied with a theoretical framework by selected actual examples.

Those streets, which have identifiable set of determinants, characteristics, modifying factors and the required urban quality, have been selected from Colombo and Kandy.

Examples from other countries also have been used where required to strengthen the argument.

Sources of information would be taken from literature review on the subject, First hand observation and photographic survey.



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